



## CHAMPAIGN COUNTY COMMITTEE AGENDA

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LINCOLN EXHIBITS COMMITTEE  
Urbana Free Library, Conference Room  
210 W. Green St., Urbana  
Tuesday, July 1, 2008 – 4:30 p.m.

**CHAIR:** Barbara Wysocki

**MEMBERS:** Raymond Cunningham, Kay Grabow, John Hoffmann,  
Kent Tucker, Anke Voss, Vern Zehr

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VII. <u>New Business</u> a. Courthouse Space b. News-Gazette Calendar of Lincoln Events	
VIII. <u>Other Business</u>	
IX. <u>Next Meeting: August 5, 2008, 4:30 p.m. at Urbana Library Conference Room</u>	
X. <u>Adjournment</u>	

**Lincoln Exhibits Committee**  
**Urbana Free Library, Conference Room**  
**210 W. Greet St., Urbana**  
**Tuesday, May 6, 2008**

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Lincoln Exhibits Committee was convened at 4:30 p.m. by Barbara Wysocki, Committee Chair

**Roll Call**

Committee members present: Barbara Wysocki, Kent Tucker, Anke Voss, Ray Cunningham, Kay Grabow. Also present: Cheryl Kennedy and Barbara Garvey of the Early American Museum.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Additions to the agenda: Illinois Humanities Council grant, Durbin News Conference, Teacher Workshop, Illinois History Survey Lincoln Collection. Motion by Kent Tucker, second by Ray Cunningham. Motion carried.

**Approval of April 1, 2008 Minutes**

Motion by Kent Tucker, second by Anke Voss. Motion carried.

**Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**Old Business**

*Update on Fundraising*

Fifty letters of appeal have been sent. Most were individuals, but a few did go to businesses and organizations. An additional fifty will be mailed in the coming week.

*Preview of the DVD*

The Committee viewed the final version of the DVD. Cheryl reported that the evaluation report and copies of the DVD had been mailed to the Illinois Commission. The total cost for Moving Pictures plus the fact that we did not include oral interviews represented a significant savings for the overall project. As a result, we were able to increase the number of copies to 1500. This will allow us to distribute copies to a broader list of schools, groups and organizations free of charge.

Barb Wysocki reported that she would announce that the DVD was completed at the County Facilities Committee meeting that evening.

**New Business**

*Update on Courthouse Masonry Project*

Denny Inman provided the Committee with the schedule for de-construction and construction of the bell tower. De-construction is scheduled to begin the first week of June and be completed in approximately 2 weeks. Re-construction will begin at that

point and is not expected to be completed until August 2009. The museum space will not be affected, but access will be limited to impossible at times. We will need to determine whether it will be possible to get teachers into this space during the workshop.

*Illinois Humanities Council Grant*

Cheryl and Barb Garvey reported that they had received official word that the Illinois Humanities Council would fund only the programs requested as part of the grant application.

*Senator Durbin Press Conference*

Senator Durbin held a news conference at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum on May 5<sup>th</sup> to announce that the Heritage Area legislation had passed both the Senate and the House and was on the President's desk for his signature.

*Teacher Workshop*

Registrations are being received and work has begun on the June teacher workshop. Teachers will receive the DVD as part of their resource packet.

*Illinois History Survey Lincoln Collection*

Committee members reported that they had received word of positive decisions related to the University of Illinois Lincoln Collection and were pleased with the decision.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Lincoln Exhibits Committee is Tuesday, June 3, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m. Motion by Kent Tucker, second by Anke Voss. Motion carried.

## Comments Regarding the Teacher Workshop

### Evaluation Comments

- By far, the circuit court bus trip was the best.
- Brian Fox Ellis had so much to offer - storytelling, poetry and persuasive writing. It would have been good to have him the whole day.
- I loved the bus ride - actually getting out and seeing the places makes all the difference.
- Loved the ACTUAL bus tour.
- The tour and Guy's information on Thursday was outstanding!
- I found the field trip valuable because I got to see the route versus reading about it.
- Guy was great! What a humble man, but amazing wealth of information. I really would have liked Guy's book as a resource.
- Brian Ellis was awesome! I loved how he had us interact and try activities.
- I liked Fox's lesson/ideas.
- The Fithian house and museum were wonderful.
- I loved brainstorming on courthouse exhibit.
- I loved the personal stories, the story about him talking with his boots off.
- What a powerful infusion of energy towards history teaching and Lincoln's legacy.
- I never knew how embedded Lincoln was in this area.
- I had so many interesting conversations these past two days. These teachers are fired up! It was a pleasure to be part of the group. (Holy Cross teacher)

### What could we have done better

- Map of bus trip to follow that day
- Longer stops at sites along the way so teachers could take pictures and really look at markers
- Parking - feeding the meter and/or moving the car was frustrating.
- Would have liked more time for storyteller - although MS/HS teacher didn't see him as relevant to his needs.
- More handouts for MS/HS teachers on how to teach Lincoln
- Daily time line so could anticipate a beginning/ending time
- More resources

### Courthouse Exhibit discussion

- Coupling visit to Courthouse with a visit to the Urbana Archive.
- Using the place where the chairs were during the visit to the courthouse for kids to participate as jurors rather than sitting within in the exhibit space. Using jury selection room as well.
- Back wall of exhibit space used as re-enactments of various cases - it would pause and say here are the facts - would you go this way or that way - changing all the time. Space in the hallway would include exhibits that interpret how justice continues - then and now reflection.
- Also using that space to talk about how Lincoln came here - how did he come, where did he stay - environment - rivers and creeks he had to ford. Interactive - find the place where he stayed or crossed the river....
- Breaking class into groups and doing alternative activities
- Chalk or crayon rubbings of the DAR circuit marker in the front of the courthouse. Teacher had no idea what this was until today.

- Kids need to know what is involved in the judicial system today - like just getting into the courthouse. Kids already go through the metal detectors when they go to the State capitol. Teachers would like their kids to see a courtroom and meet a judge and courthouse employees. Opportunity to compare courthouse and activities of the past with those of today.
- Video or audio of why Lincoln was here. Why is there a display of Lincoln in the Urbana courthouse.
- Kiosk in the center with computer and screen with activities.
- Daughter of teacher. Artifacts in the jury room with buttons to tell you what they are.
- Floor space have a scaled down map of counties so students could walk/travel where Lincoln walked/traveled. (the circuit) Amount of time it took for him to travel. Have Lincoln leaving his home in Springfield - time it took to travel from place to place. Teacher didn't think of Lincoln leaving his family when he traveled.
- Technology to project on the floor where Lincoln is traveling and the challenges he is experiencing as he travels. Pictures of what is happening could be on the wall and beam would be projected onto the map on the floor to show where he was at the time.
- Needlepoint picture of the counties could be moved to another location if wall space was needed for exhibit interpretation.
- Space designed for 23-30 kids - not 50 to ensure that floor space could be fully utilized.
- Case or DVD player placed in jury assembly room to save hallway space for exhibit interaction.
- Collage of Lincoln's nicknames - Who was Lincoln? Ways for kids to relate to him as a child - what was his life like?
- Use neon lights - color would change to depict travel location.
- Something kids can take away with them - like the places where you can make a Lincoln penny stamp - the rubbing of a seal or something.
- Pre-trip materials to include Lincoln cases - activities developed that would allow them to make decisions appropriate to their grade level.
- **Lots** of talk about holograms.